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PRESS RELEASE

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SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER'S

GENEVA ARRIVAL STATEMENT

I have come to Geneva today, at the behest of the President of the United States, in the cause of peace.

The fate of Arabs and Jews has been inextricably linked throughout their history, rising and falling together. In recent centuries both had been reduced to an equally cruel state -- the one dispersed and persecuted throughout the world, the other deprived of autonomy and freedom in its own former empire. But over the past quarter century both have stood on the verge of overcoming their past, no longer restrained by outside forces but by their struggle with one another. Thus in the land of Arabs and Jews, where the reality of mistrust and hate so tragically contradicts the spiritual message which originates there, it is essential for the voice of reconciliation to be heard.

The war that began last October 6 -- like its three predecessors -- proved the futility of military solutions. There is no acceptable alternative to a negotiated settlement of the issues so long in dispute, and to a determination on the part of all the parties who will assemble here tomorrow to make these negotiations succeed.

For its part, the United States comes here with that determination. President Nixon has instructed me to engage the influence and resources of the United States in a major effort to achieve a just and lasting peace

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in the Middle East. I shall carry out my instructions with all my heart and all my energy.

In my meetings with Arab and Israeli leaders over the course of the past ten days I found none who wanted the war to continue; none who would not recognize that now is the time to break the cycle of uneasy truce and violent war.

Upon us and what we do here depend the lives and hopes of people, and it is to the people we shall have to answer should we fail. The Middle East whose dramatic, tragic and heroic peoples have produced three great faiths is challenged today to another act of faith; that hatred can give way to reconciliation; that peace can become our purpose, compromise our method and hope our inspiration.